

Serial No.: 10/728,454
Examiner: Lisa Hashem

REMARKS

Examiner rejected all pending claims (claims 1-10, 12-19 and 27-30) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Examiner cited Leung (U.S. Patent No. 7,099,332) as disclosing the “conveying the connectivity information from the one or more Voice-over-IP devices to a private branch exchange system that maintains a relation database” limitation and the “associating the connectivity information at the relation database with a geographic location of the one or more Voice-over-IP devices” limitation of independent claim 1.

However, the cited portion of Leung only discusses a VLAN aware device 110 (PBX) and a voice-over-IP device 109 connected thereto. There is no discussion in the cited disclosure related to a relation database or a geographic location as required in the present claim language. The cited portions of Leung only relate to prioritizing and transmitting an emergency call using a specified range of ports and prioritizing each data packet associated with the emergency call. There is no discussion of the use of a relation database at the PBX or the use of the relation database to associate connectivity information with a geographic location of any Voice-over-IP device.

In addition, claim 2 has been amended to include a “wherein the relation database is external to the private branch exchange” limitation. It is evident from cited FIG. 8 of Leung that to the extent connectivity information is conveyed from the one or more Voice-over-IP devices to a private branch exchange system, it is conveyed directly to the PBX and there is no relation database external to the PBX as shown in FIG. 1 of the present invention.

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In addition, claim 12 has been amended to state that "the relation database has one or more tables that associate the node and a slot number and a port number on which the one or more Voice-over-IP devices connect to the node with the known geographic distribution of the node in the network" to further distinguish from the cited prior art.

Regarding claims 2-10, 12-19, and 27-30, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited reference.

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CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the claims as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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